

STAFFORD HURL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L     R E P O R T

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for

1 9 5 1

Austin Priestman, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
(Univ. Edin.)



Mrs. Field and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health of the Sturtforth Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1951.

The Birth rate comparison shows again that the rate for the District is again in excess of that for the rest of England and Wales; the maternal mortality rate again compares very favourably with that for the rest of England and Wales and the infant mortality rate is lower than for 1950.

The deaths from all causes were lower than in 1950 and though the rate is higher than that for the rest of England and Wales it is noted that 16 deaths were in the 55/75 age group and 31 in the over 75 age group.

There is an increase in malignant disease; notifications of Tuberculosis were the same as in the previous year, and there were no deaths as compared with one in 1950.

Vaccinations were approximately half those in 1949 and below those of 1950; immunisations were also lower than in 1950.

The number of visits of domiciliary midwifery was 1730 compared with 1,488 in the previous year, the number of Home Nursing visits 3325 compared with 1792 in the previous year and the number of Health visits 3701 compared with 1827.

The work of Inspectors, Midwives and Child Welfare officers, Doctors and Nurses has been efficiently carried on with beneficial effect on the general health of the community and I would like to express to them all my gratitude for their good work for all the help they have afforded, and to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their constant courtesy.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health - Austin Priestman, M.B., Ch.B.,  
D.P.H. (Univ. Edin.)

Sanitary Inspector - T. Ashcroft, C.R.C.I., Assn. Inst. San. Engrs.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District in acres	...	97,630
Resident Population	...	4,292
(Estimated mid-year Home Population)		
Number of inhabited houses	...	1,389
Rateable value at 1st April 1951	...	2 49,911
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£ 207
Rate in L levied at 1st April 1951	..	17/4

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The number of live births registered during the year was 72, as against 68 in 1950. The birth rate comparisons shows that the rate for the District is in excess of that for the rest of England and Wales.

Birth Rate Comparisons (per 1,000 estimated population)

	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Still Births</u>
Startforth Rural District 1950	16.80	.25
Startforth Rural District 1951	16.77	.23
England and Wales 1951	15.5	.36

Analysis of Births.

	<u>Live Births</u>				<u>Still Births</u>			
	1950		1951		1950		1951	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	33	31	38	32	1	.	.	1
Illegitimate	3	1	.	2	.	.	.	.

Residential Distribution of Births.

		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Barforth	...	1	.
Barningham	...	1	4
Boldron	...	.	1
Bowcs	...	1	5
Brignall	...	2	.
Cotherstone	...	2	2
Gilmonby	...	2	1
Holwick	...	3	2
Hutton Magna	...	2	.
Lartington	...	5	1
Lunedale	...	2	1
Mickleton	...	1	3
Ovington	...	.	2
Rokeby	...	2	2
Romaldkirk	...	1	1
Startforth	...	11	8
Wycliffe	...	2	1
Totals	...	38	34

-- 1 Female,  
Still Birth



DEATHS. Maternal Mortality. Again, as in the past three years there was no case of a woman dying in, or in consequence of childbirth in the District; this compares very favourably with the maternal mortality rate for the rest of England and Wales, which, for 1951 was .79 per 1,000 total births.

Infantile Mortality. The number of infants (under one year) who died during 1951 was 2, as against 3 in 1950 which shows a lower rate than that for the rest of England and Wales for 1951.

Infantile Mortality Comparisons per 1,000 live births.

Startforth Rural District 1950	. 44.12
Startforth Rural District 1951	. 27.40
England and Wales 1951	. 25.6

Analysis of Infantile Deaths, Sexes and Ages.

1. Hydrocephalus. Spina bifida. F 13 hrs.
2. Asphyxia neonatorum, difficult M 30 mins.  
labour, persistent occipito-posterior presentation.

Deaths from all causes. During 1951 there were 56 deaths from all causes registered in the District, as against 61 in 1950: though the rate is again higher than that for the rest of England and Wales it is noted that 16 deaths were in the 55/75 age group and 31 in the over 75 years age group.

Deaths rates comparisons. Death rate per 1,000 population

Startforth Rural District 1950	... 15.07
Startforth Rural District 1951	... 15.05
England and Wales 1951	... 12.50

Causes of all Deaths and Sexes	1951		1950	
	M	F	M	F
T/B of Respiratory System	.	.	.	.
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	1	1	.	1
" Lung, Bronchus	.	.	1	.
" Breast	.	1	.	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	3	2	2
Diabetes	.	.	.	.
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	3	5	7
Coronary Diseases, Aorta	1	.	4	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	.	.	.
Other Heart Diseases	6	15	6	9
Other Diseases of Circulatory Dis.	1	2	.	3
Influenza	.	2	1	.
Pneumonia	1	1	1	.
Bronchitis	.	.	1	.
Other Respiratory Diseases	.	.	.	.
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	.	.	.
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	.	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	.	1	.
Congenital Malformations	.	1	1	.
Other Defined and Ill-defined Dis.	3	1	3	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	.	.	3	.
All other accidents	1	2	1	.
Suicide	.	.	1	.
Totals	27	29	31	30

Ages at Death - from all causes.		1950	1951
From birth to one day	...	1	2
From one month to one year	...	2	.
Under one year	...	3	2
From 1 to 25 years	...	1	1
From 25 to 55 years	....	4	6
From 55 to 65 years	...	8	1
From 65 to 75 years	...	19	15
Over 75 years	...	26	31
Totals		61	56

Number of Deaths from the Seven Chief Causes and comparisons with the previous year.

No. of Deaths		Causes of Death	Rate per 1,000 pop.	
1951	1950		1951	1950
9	7	Cancer	2.10	1.73
4	3	Respiratory (not T/B)	.93	.74
14	24	Heart Disease	3.26	5.93
.	.	T/B Pulmonary	.00	.00
.	.	T/B Non-pulmonary	.00	.00
3	3	Other Circulatory Diseases	.70	.74
12	12	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2.80	2.97
42	49		9.79	12.11

Residential Distribution of Deaths from all Causes		1951		1950	
		M	F	M	F
Baldersdale	...	.	1	1	1
Barforth	...	.	1	1	.
Barningham	...	.	.	1	2
Bolton	...	2	1	.	.
Bowes	...	6	4	2	4
Brighall	...	1	.	.	.
Cootherstone	...	12	8	6	5
Gilmonby	...	2	.	.	.
Greta Bridge	...	1	1	.	.
Holwick	...	.	1	.	1
Hunderthwaite	...	.	.	1	1
Hutton Magna	...	2	.	2	.
Lartington	...	.	1	2	2
Lunedale	...	1	1	.	3
Mickleton	...	1	4	5	4
Ovington	...	.	1	3	.
Rokeby	...	.	1	.	.
Romaldkirk	...	2	4	.	3
Startforth	...	1	1	3	3
Totals		31	30	27	29

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. There were 68 cases of notifiable diseases reported during 1951, as against 144 cases in 1950: the latter high figure being due to an outbreak of measles in June and July 1950.

Analysis and Comparisons		1951	1950
Scarlet Fever	...	2	5
Measles	...	23	124
Acute Pneumonia	...	3	2
Erysipelas	...	1	2
Paratyphoid Fever	...	.	.
Whooping Cough	...	37	8
Diphtheria	...	.	1
Chicken Pox	...	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	.	1
Totals		68	144



Residential Distribution of Infectious Diseases  
and comparisons with previous year.

	Measles	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Diphtheria	Chicken Fox	Poliomyelitis		Measles	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Diphtheria	Chicken Fox	Poliomyelitis
				1950									1951				
Baldersdale	1											8					
Barforth	2													1			
Barningham	1							1		2		6	1			1	
Boldron	3									1		3					
Bowes	12					1				1		2					
Brignall	4																
Cootherstone	10											7					
Deerbolt	1									1							
Egglesstone A.												1					
Gilmonby	1			1													
Grete Bridge	4																
Holwick	9		2									2					
Hutton Magna	1	1		1			1										
Lartington	10																
Lunedale	15																
Lickleton	18				1					2		7					
Middleton T.		1	3		1												
Ovington				3							3					1	
Ronaldkirk	12									1							
Searhill	11											1					
Wortforth	9		3							15			1				
Totals	124	2	8	5	2	1	1	1		23	3	37	2	1	.	1	.

TUBERCULOSIS. There were three notifications of Tuberculosis during the year, the same number as in 1950.

Analysis of Tuberculosis notifications.

1. Female aged 19 years, Non-pulmonary - Barningham
2. Female aged 7 years, Pulmonary - Cootherstone
3. Female aged 15 years, Non-pulmonary - Bowes

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

No deaths from Tuberculosis occurred in 1951; there being no deaths from this cause in 1950.

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS. Records received from medical practitioners show that there were 18 vaccinations carried out during the year, as against 22 in 1950. 32 Immunisations were carried out during the year, as against 40 in 1950.

Comparisons and Age Groups of Vaccinations and Immunisations.

	1951		1950	
	0 - 5	over 5	0 - 5	over 5
Successful Vaccinations	12	6	15	7
Completed Course of Immunisation.	22	10	29	11



Residential Distribution of Vaccinations and Immunisations.

	Vaccinations				Immunisations			
	0 - 5 yrs		over 5 yrs		0 - 5 yrs		over 5 yrs	
	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951
Baldersdale	.	.	.	.	1	2	.	.
Barningham	1	1	.	.	1	4	1	1
Beldron	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	.
Bell Busby	.	.	.	1	1	2	.	1
Brighall	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.
Cotherstone	1	.	1	1	1	2	1	1
Deerbolt	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Greta Bridge	.	1	2	.	1	.	.	.
Holwick	1	1	1	.	2	3	.	.
Lartington	.	.	.	3	1	1	.	1
Little Hutton	.	.	.	.	2	.	3	.
Lunedale	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	2
Mickleton	3	1	.	.	5	1	.	.
Ovington	2	1	.	.	.	2	.	.
Rokeby	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.
Romaldkirk	.	1	1	.	.	1	.	.
Seargill	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Startforth	3	5	1	1	7	2	1	4
Winston	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.
Wycliffe	1	.	1	.	2	.	.	.
Totals	15	12	7	6	29	22	11	10

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT 1946.

- Section 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children.  
 Section 23. Domiciliary Midwifery.  
 Section 24. Health Visiting.  
 Section 25. Home Nursing.

Four District Nurse/Midwives employed by the North Riding County Council carry out the duties required by the above four sections. There is one Infant Welfare Centre in the District, at Barningham, which is under the jurisdiction of the County Council and which is attended by a local practitioner and the District Nurse/Midwife for that area: full advantage being taken of the facilities offered.

Number of visits paid to patients by the District Nurse/Midwives during 1951 under the following categories:-

<u>Domiciliary Midwifery</u>	<u>Home Nursing</u>	<u>Health Visiting</u>
1730	3325	3701

Section 27. Ambulance Service. The North Riding County Council provide this service by arrangement with the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, who have two vehicles stationed at Richmond. This service and the Hospital Car Service, under the jurisdiction of the Women's Voluntary Services is shared with three other Authorities.

Section 28. Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health Service, Inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors and Nurses, must all have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community.



Section 29. Domestic Help Service. This service is provided by arrangement with the North Riding County Council and during 1951 four cases received help, the analysis being as follows:-

1. Domiciliary Confinement,	72 hours
2. Chronic Sick,	365 "
3. Domiciliary Confinement,	88 "
4. Domiciliary Confinement,	28 "

Section 51. Mental Health. No Committee in the District and no case arose during 1951.

Dental Service. This service is provided by arrangement with the County Council.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47. No cases removed during the year.

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The remainder of this report was compiled by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. T. Ashcroft, and I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to him and his staff for their co-operation in the daily duties of the Department and for the great assistance in the preparation of this report.

Total number of inspections for nuisances only	276
Total number of nuisances found	86
Total number of Statutory Notices served	...
Total number of Informal Notices served.	59

Rural Housing Survey. The following work has been carried out during the year:-

Number of houses inspected	... 50
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The result of the Categories being as follows:-

1. Satisfactory in all respects	... 5
2. Minor defects	... 23
3. Repairs of structural alterations	22
4. Suitable for Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	45
5. Unfit	... Nil

Very little work has been carried out under this heading for the following reasons:-

1. Improvements cannot be carried out at reasonable cost.
2. No grants available under the Housing Act 1949.

Closest Accommodation. Most of the houses within the District are on the pail system and the majority being in the parishes without a main sewerage. Until the parishes are properly sewered, and provided with adequate water supplies conversions cannot be entertained. During the year the following work has been carried out under this heading:-

Number of new W. C's provided	... 30
Number of Pail conversions to W. C's	6



Scavenging. Public scavenging is in operation in the following parishes:-

Startforth, Bartington, Cotharstone, Romaldkirk, Mickleton, Holwick, Rokely, Bowes, Boldron, Hutton Magna, Ovington, and Barningham, and sections of Lunedale, Barforth, Seargill, and Wycliffe with Thorpe.

The collection of refuse from Deerbolt Camp is also undertaken. Two ~~Rambling~~ Scavenging vehicles with a driver/loader, and a second loader employed on each are in operation.

The refuse is deposited at tips that are semi-controlled. Our system of collection and disposal is satisfactory in every way. During the year under review no complaints have been received.

Infectious Diseases. All cases notified have been investigated, and rooms occupied by patients have been efficiently fumigated with formalin.

Factory Act 1937 - 1948. We have on the Register 19 premises. Inspections have been made during the year with reference to cleanliness, sanitary conveniences, temperature, and ventilation.

Number of inspections	...	12
Number of Defects found	...	3
Number of defects remedied		3

Inspection and supervision of Food. No slaughtering takes place in the private slaughter houses. Pigs are slaughtered on private premises for own consumption and if notification is given of ~~slaughter inspections are made.~~ I am of the opinion that such slaughtering should be made compulsory, and notified by the Food office.

Rodent Control. The prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 has again had our attention during the year as will be shown by the following:-

No. of manholes baited	...	205
No. of manholes showing takes	...	115

Refuse tips treated - Rokely	- 3 times
Mickleton	12 "
Barningham	3 "

Sewerage Disposal Works treated - Cotharstone	- 2 times.
Bowes	2 "
Ovington	2 "
Romaldkirk	2 "

Domestic premises treated - 23

Sewerage. At the present time there are sewers and disposal works in the following parishes:-

Cotharstone.	The only Parish with modern works.
Startforth.	
Bowes.	
Romaldkirk.	
Barningham	
Mickleton	

The Startforth works are overloaded, and cannot cope with any additional new houses.

The Bowes works are carrying out the treatment in a satisfactory manner during normal weather. In rainy periods too much surface water has to be dealt with. The chief cause being all highway surface water being admitted to the sewers.

The Romaldkirk works are not too bad if we had the Sludge beds.

The Barningham and Mickleton works are obsolete absolutely.

Post War Schemes. During the past five years the Council have had prepared the following schemes:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Estimated cost on 1939 prices.</u>
Barningham	£ 3140
Bolton	£ 2270
Bowes	£ 3520
Hutton Magna	£ 3310
Lartington	£ 2950
Mickleton	£ 5570
Ovington	£ 2780
Romaldkirk	£ 1550
Startforth	£ 6520

Water Supply.

1. The water supply of the District has been satisfactory (a) in quantity and (b) in quality in the parishes except at Bowes and Barningham.

2. Our main supply is from the Tees Valley Water Board and samples of water taken by us for bacteriological examination have proved to be satisfactory. Samples of water taken from the Bowes and Barningham supplies during the year proved unfit for human consumption. To overcome this result and to render the supplies fit for human consumption Chlorinators have been fixed.

3. The various supplies within our district are not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

4. Action was taken at Bowes and Barningham for contamination by the provision of Chlorinators.

*Austin Priestman.*

Medical Officer of Health.

10th July 1952.



